

REMARKS

The office action of December 16, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1 and 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Robotham.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Robotham in view of the patent to Draskovitch et al.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Robotham in view of the patent to Yoshida.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the patent to Robotham, it can be seen that this patent discloses a sealing

assembly in which the ring 6 rests against the sleeve 5. There is no disclosure of a ring fastened to the neck bush or the roll neck, as in the presently claimed invention. Furthermore, the reference does not disclose a roller-burnished sealing surface, as in the presently claimed invention. The roller-burnishing of the sealing surface provides a surface that is work-hardened while its roughness is minimized. Robotham does not disclose a roller-burnished sealing surface, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The patents to Draskovich and Yoshida have also been considered. These references add nothing to the teachings of Robotham so as to teach the presently claimed invention as discussed above in connection with claim 1.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are

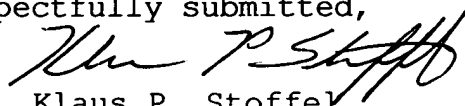
HM-729

respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Klaus P. Stoffel

Reg. No. 31,668

For: Friedrich Kueffner

Reg. No. 29,482

317 Madison Avenue, Suite 910

New York, New York 10017

(212) 986-3114

Dated: March 16, 2009

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 16, 2009.

By:


Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: March 16, 2009